

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Purpose and History

Representing the 10 states along the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MRPC) was established in 1938 to develop plans for what was to become the present day Great River Road. The Great River Road was established using the Great Road, Blue Ridge Parkway, and Natchez Trace as models for a series of roads designed and managed to welcome visitors seeking Mississippi River experiences as they journey through the states bordering the Mississippi River. Member states include Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. The National MRPC is responsible for the continued development, preservation, and promotion of the byway and its amenities. The MRPC cannot assert new regulations, infringe on private property, require adoption of new ordinances, or require participation in a corridor program.

Each state has its own individual commission. Iowa's Mississippi Parkway Planning Commission is established in Iowa Code section [308.1](#) and is responsible for promoting transportation and tourism along the 326-mile Iowa Great River Road, running from Iowa's southern border with Missouri to its northern border with Minnesota. In Iowa, Commissioners are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor with one Commissioner from each of the 10 counties bordering the Mississippi River. Technical members of the Commission include the Iowa Departments of Transportation, Economic Development, and Natural Resources; the Iowa Tourism Office; and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The Commission develops and implements a Corridor Management Plan. This Plan includes establishing signage requirements, restrictions on outdoor advertising, methods to market and promote the Corridor, and activities to involve the public in the planning and promotion of the [Great River Road](#) in Iowa.

State Funding

The Department of Transportation (DOT) receives an annual appropriation from the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) for the Iowa MRPC. This appropriation funds annual organization dues in the National MRPC and operational costs of the Iowa Commission.

Related Statute

Iowa Code section [308.1](#)

Revised September 8, 2016

More Information

National Mississippi River Parkway Commission: <http://www.mrpcmembers.com/index.php>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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